Coming to the reform of the Trivandrum Town Improvement Com... the Member said that the Committee should be made a model for other Comm... in the State and it should have a status befitting the capital town. He pro... that the Darbar Physician might be the *ex-officio* President of the Committee. ... should be a Vice-President to attend to routine work. The Committee sh... consist of the District Magistrate, the Senior Surgeon, the District Judge, the P... Sirkar Vakil and a number of non-official members.

Dewan.—I think purely judicial officers are not generally appointed ... members of municipal corporations and, in certain places, there are rules actually ... qualifying them from being members.

The Member said that all that he wanted was that some of the impo... officers should constitute the Committee in order to enhance its influence. T... was no necessity for a high-paid full-time President. Instead of the Hea... Officer on a high salary, a Sanitary Inspector with the necessary technical ... physical qualifications on a much lower salary might be appointed with adva... A graduate in medicine was preferable. The Sanitary Inspector should visit ... nook and corner of the town. He said that such a reform of the Committee ... enhance its status, while reducing the establishment charges. The money thus sa... could be utilized in improving the health of the town. The Government contribut... should also be made more liberal.

Among the needs of the town, he said that water supply was the most i... portant. In that portion of the town which was on a higher level, water failed in ... wells for two or three months in the year. In the remaining portion, the wate... the wells was very bad for health, causing many intestinal troubles. If the Chem... Examiner were to examine the water in the wells in the low grounds and direc... closure of wells which contained very bad water, it would be a blessing to the he... of the town. He next referred to the necessity for effective removal and econ... disposal of the waste matter. As a result of the non-removal of night-soil and ... bish from certain lanes, the sanitation of the town was in a deplorable cond... The economic value of the night-soil and rubbish was lost sight of by the Comm... They could be converted into excellent manure by dumping night-soil on pre... grounds and burning refuses, and sold at a high sum annually. The gutters in... streets were not being flushed every day. Arrangements should be made to ... them both morning and evening. The milk sold in the various parts of the ... was adulterated with impure water. Cow's milk was seldom sold and buffalo mil... injurious to health. He complained against keeping within the Fort a large nu... of buffaloes, rendering the locality insanitary. The question of the milk supply in ... the town should therefore engage the serious attention of the Committee and ... bye-laws should be passed bringing the milk-vendors under a system of license. ... The Member said that there must be a rule that dead bodies should be taken out of ... the town and buried. At present there were several cremation grounds within the ... town. He also suggested that all the school-children should be examined by medical ... officers.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

90. Desirability of abolishing the Sanitary Department.

Mr. E. N. Kesava Pillai, B. A. (Member, Kartikapalli taluk) said that his ... proposal to do away with an existing organisation might seem retrograde, but he con... sidered that the Sanitary Department, as at present constituted, was by no means an... indispensable part of the administrative machinery from a utilitarian point of view. ... e department was constituted some twenty years ago, not on any proved necessity; ... whatever necessity might have then existed had only decreased during the recent ... rs by the constitution of as many as 19 Town Improvement Committees, ... ich attended to the sanitation of the urban areas in the State. The expenditure of ... department showed no reduction in spite of the contraction of its jurisdiction and ... ons in those towns. The department was now manned by a Sanitary Commissioner, ... District Sanitary Officers and eleven Assistant Sanitary Officers, with a ...

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mum salary of Rs. 500, Rs. 200 and Rs. 75 each, respectively. There were the clerical and menial staff befitting the status of each officer. The expendi- on account of the department for the current year was about three-fourths of a of rupees of which more than 73% was consumed by the establishment. The f items of work now attended to by the department consisted of vital statistics, cination, conservancy and epidemic duty. Itinerant medical relief, which figured minently in the G. O. constituting the department, had long ceased to exist.

Taking vital statistics, he said that the field work under that head was being ried on by the Revenue agency. Each proverticar forwarded to the Tahsildar of taluk a monthly return of births and deaths in his pakuthi. The Tahsildar for- led the taluk returns to the Sanitary Commissioner, who compiled the figures for whole State and forwarded a consolidated quarterly statement to the Government. e Member proposed that the Tahsildar might be asked to forward his taluk re- rns to the Peishkar who in turn should send the Division returns to the Govern- nent. The work involved in consolidating the returns in the Huzur Office was pable of being easily done by a single clerk. He thought that the work, if conduct- d in the above way, was not liable to any worse errors or omissions than at present nd that no expert advice was needed in the matter.

Secondly, he said that vaccination was carried on, before the organisation of he Sanitary Department, by a field staff with a few inspecting officers, under the rol of the Darbar Physician. He maintained that the department was not ed for attending to the efficient conduct of vaccination, but to give it some vaccination was entrusted to the department after its creation. He proposed he District and Assistant Sanitary Officers, now attached to the Vaccine Depot, be appointed the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent of Vaccination, tively, to supervise the field work of the existing staff of vaccinators and to look the Vaccine Depot by turns, and that the whole institution might be placed in ination to the Darbar Physician. He was confident that the arrangement pro- would not swell the Darbar Physician's work to any inconvenient extent.

Thirdly, coming to the question of conservancy, he said that the work was d on in all the important towns by the local Town Improvement Committees and anitary Department exercised no jurisdiction whatever within the limits of those s. The jurisdiction of the department was therefore confined to rural areas and 5 conservancy stations. At each of the above conservancy stations, there were one conservancy overseer and a few sweepers. The staff might, with advantage, be ansferred to the control of the local taluk authorities who, being the officers on the pot, would be able to check the work with better efficiency than the Sanitary officers ould. The arrangement, the Member thought, was calculated to secure a greater quantity and improve the quality of conservancy work. As regards rural conser- vancy, nothing was being done in that direction at present. He thought that, in the rural areas of the State, as in those of Malabar generally, there was neither the scope nor the necessity for such important sanitary works as were carried on in the other parts of India. Owing to the nature of the country, mode of habitation, isola- ted houses, and various other circumstances, the rural areas in Travancore did not stand in need of any me of artificial sanitation.

Coming to the question epidemics, he said that epidemics were by no means a standing menace to Travancore. Still, the formidable though rare visitations, as well as the more frequent but minor out-breaks of epidemic diseases, had to be guarded against. Before the organisation of the Sanitary Department, they were being no less effectively guarded against by the co-operation of the Revenue and Medical Departments. The system was not materially altered now except that the Sanitary Department was also enjoined to co-operate with the other two departments. It was evident from the Cholera Rules that the brunt of the work had to be shouldered by those two departments. The part assigned to the Sanitary Depart- ment could be easily entrusted to the Revenue subordinates and a temporary menial staff acting under the advice and control of the special medical officer. Thus, it would be clear that the department was no indispensable accessory to the prevention and cure of epidemics.

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If a Sanitary Department had to be maintained for attending to the major sanitary operations such as, drainage, water supply, etc., for which a department was maintained in British India, the four works above detailed would fall under the minor functions of the department. But the maintenance of an elaborate Sanitary Department for the discharge of those minor functions alone, which were formerly discharged with equal efficiency by other State agencies, was an unnecessary expenditure of public funds. The people were painfully convinced that the advantage derived from the department was nothing, when compared to the price paid for it. The Member therefore requested that the suggestions he had advanced might receive the careful consideration of the Government.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

91. Unsatisfactory condition of the present administration of the Sanitary Departm[illegible]

Mr. A. K. Govindan Channar (Member, T. I. C., Kayankulam) [illegible] the opinions of the Members, who had already spoken about the Sanitary Dep[illegible] in particular and of those who referred to the department in connection with the retrenchment of State expenditure, evidenced the popular sentiment in respect of the uselessness of the department. Sanitation was a subject of vital importance to the people, but he complained that the present Sanitary Department did not pay that attention to it which it deserved. The number of deaths generally, and deaths from small-pox and fevers in particular, were on the increase. If deaths from cholera showed a small decrease, the Member argued that it was an indirect result of the general poverty of the masses. He proposed that the all-important question of sanitation might be entrusted to taluk boards conducted under the guidance and expert advice of the Sanitary Commissioner, under a system of liberal grants from the Goverment. The Vaccine Depot should be taken directly under the control of Government and lymph supplied to all the taluk boards. If such proposal was not considered feasible, he agreed with the other Members in t[illegible] that the department might be altogether abolished and its work di[illegible]ankin[illegible] other departments as suggested by them. [illegible]istributed among[illegible]

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

92. Present state of public health, medical aid and sanitation in the State and how to improve the same.

Mr. K. C. Govindan (Member, Nominated) said that the number of cases vaccinated during 1090 had fallen from that during the previous year and the average number of cases per vaccinator per month was only 165 during 1090 while the minimum fixed by the Government was 175.

Dewan.—The minimum has been reduced to 150 cases per vaccinator.

The Member continued and said that, since vaccination was compulsory for admission to schools, the Central Jail and the Sirkar service, the number of cases returned was mainly under those heads and the vaccinations performed on others were very few. Due attention was not being paid by the department to sanitation in general.

He next pointed out that only a small percentage of the delivery cases was being attended to by the midwives of the Medical Department and that was why infantile deaths registered were on the increase. He proposed that more midwives should be entertained and that instruction in midwifery, nursing of children etc., should be imparted in the higher classes of elementary and secondary schools for girls. The curricula of studies for girls should be different from that for boys and suitable changes should therefore be introduced. He next pointed out that the average cost per patient in the Medical Department was about 16 chs., while the average cost per patient on account of medicine alone was only 14 cash, and that the supply of medicines to the hospitals was very poor. The stock of medicines ran out months before the close of the year and particular medicines much earlier. He suggested the desirability of getting indents for the medicines required from each hospital, as different medicines could then be supplied in different quantities to different hospit[illegible]

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